

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9299

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 2962

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RO CO

SUBJECT: VISIT TO ROMANIA OF COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT

REF: BOGOTA 5963

1. THE EXTENDED STAY (JUNE 19-JULY 2) OF PRESIDENT-ELECT AND MRS. ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN IN ROMANIA WAS TREATED BY THE HOSTS ALMOST AS IF IT WERE AN OFFICIAL VISIT; IT RECEIVED BROAD COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA, AND CLEARLY WAS USEFUL TO THE ROMANIANS IN EMPHASIZING THEIR CULTURAL AND, INCREASINGLY, POLITICAL AND OTHER TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA. THE UTILITY OF THE EXERCISE TO THE COLOMBIAN SIDE, HOWEVER, IS MORE DIFFICULT TO JUDGE FROM HERE, AND WE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT THE VISIT MIGHT BEST BE DESCRIBED FROM THEIR STANDPOINT AS "OFFICIAL TOURISM." THE UNSIGNED COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION WAS BRIEF, WARM, AND FILLED WITH GENERALITIES ABOUT PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE VALUE OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. IT CONTAINED NO EVIDENCE THAT MORE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS TOOK PLACE.

2. COMMENT. EVEN WHEN THE SUBSTANCE IS MINIMAL, THE ROMANIANS ARE SKILLFUL AT USING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS TO EMPHASIZE THE CENTRAL THEMES OF THEIR ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY, A FACT WHICH THE RECENT COLOMBIAN VISIT ONLY SERVES TO RECONFIRM.

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Message Attributes

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